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CONFIDENTIAL

NSC BRIEFING

15 June 1955

FORMOSA STRAITS

I. No significant combat operations in past week.

A. Chicom continue defer aggressive action while possibility of Sino-US talks being explored.

II. Airfield construction along coast continues.

A. [] Chicom may be about to renovate old airfield at Swatow.

B. []

C. Chicom planes have not yet appeared at Lungtien (30 miles S of Foochow) or Chenghai (6 miles NE of Swatow) where runways believed serviceable.

III. Chicom propaganda of past week has introduced no new line on Formosa issues.

A. Peiping alleges there is growing campaign in US for negotiations to ease tensions.

B. Peiping on 10 June broadcast 2 June interview in which Chou En-lai told Indonesian newsmen Peiping is willing to negotiate only the US "occupation" of Formosa, that there is no need for cease-fire.

Chou explicitly endorsed "good offices" of interested third parties in setting up Sino-US talks.

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